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February 3, 2021

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd
Chief Clerk and Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia SC 29210

Re: Application of WC Fiber, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, McCormick, Oconee, and Pickens Counties for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I Support
Docket No. 2021-20-C

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-3-225(E), WC Fiber, LLC hereby withdraws its application filed in the above-referenced docket on January 6, 2021, and requests that the docket be administratively closed.

By its application, WC Fiber requested designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") in certain census blocks where it had been named a provisional winning bidder in the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC's") Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction 904 ("RDOF"). On January 27, 2021, WC Fiber notified the FCC that it would not be submitting the long-form application to proceed with the RDOF award.

WC Fiber did not make this decision lightly. At the auction's onset, WC Fiber was hopeful of expanding future-proof fiber-to-the-premise ("FTTP") facilities to census block groups ("CBGs") which were located just beyond the company's current service areas. WC Fiber made use of all FCC resources on the reverse auction process as it diligently sought to understand how the process would operate, evaluating various scenarios and outcomes with every intention of accepting all winning bids. Unfortunately, the results of the auction were unexpected. Despite very aggressive bidding that drove bids for many areas down to 1% of the auction reserve price, WC Fiber continued to bid to the lowest possible level, with the intention of winning all CBGs it planned to serve. At the end of the auction, however, the auction's "random assignment" resulted in WC Fiber being awarded only 8 of the 20 CBGs for which it bid. Those CBGs were remote and non-

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contiguous, effectively creating a “checkerboard” funded service area, with other providers awarded funding in adjacent CBGs in the same area. Accordingly, WC Fiber determined it was not economically feasible to move forward with the RDOF award, especially in light of the significant administrative expense associated with accepting RDOF funds.

WC Fiber will continue its commitment to expanding fiber facilities and deploying high-speed broadband service in South Carolina, wherever it can feasibly do so.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Burr & Forman LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Margaret M. Fox".

Margaret M. Fox

MMF:khh

cc: C. Lessie Hammonds, Esq.